

# TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

## APPROVED

HELD ON May 21, 2019

The Transportation Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the Lower Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

<u>TAB Members Present</u>	<u>TAB Members Absent</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
Ron Wilson (Vice Chairperson)	David Camp (Chairperson)	Ryan Hudson
Vern Mathern	Megan Neal	Sabine Ellis
Chris Scott	Dave Bergner	David Rico
Ian Murray		Stephanie Derivan
Ryan Wozniak		Al Zubi
Jennifer Love		Michael Grandy
Sam Gatton		
Georgina Marin		

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson called the May 21, 2019 Transportation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**Item 1. Approval of the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on March 19, 2019.**

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson, seconded by Board Member Vern Mathern, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Wilson – Mathern – Scott – Murray – Wozniak – Love – Gatton - Marin

NAYS – None

**Item 2. Acknowledge outgoing Board Members Ron Wilson and Jennifer Love**

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson and Board Member Jennifer Love announced that this would be their last board meeting.

**Item 3. Acknowledge new Board Member Georgina Marin**

Board Member Georgina Marin introduced herself to the Board. Board Members and others present went around the table introducing themselves.

**Item 4. Annual election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson asked if there were any nominations for Chairperson. Chairperson David Camp was nominated to continue as Chairperson. After totaling votes, it was announced that Chairperson David Camp would continue to serve as Chairperson.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson asked if there were any nominations for Vice Chairperson. Board Member Ian Murray was nominated. After totaling votes, it was announced that Board Member Ian Murray would serve as the new Vice Chairperson.

**Item 5. Items from citizens present**

None.

**Item 6. Hear a presentation and discuss the Southeast Mesa Land Use and Transportation Plan**

Al Zubi, Supervising Engineer, and Michael Grandy, Project Manager at Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., introduced themselves and shared they would be presenting information on the Southeast Mesa Land Use and Transportation Plan. Mr. Grandy gave an overview of the study, summarized community input that has been received from the public meetings and shared how they will develop the future land use and future transportation plan. Mr. Grandy provided a detailed view of land use within the Southeast Mesa area and noted that the approximate square mile south of Guadalupe Rd is under some form of development. Mr. Grandy shared that this will be a partial update to the land use and transportation plan that was completed several years ago. He continued to share that the ADOT State Route 24 (SR-24) is projected to extend further east in the next few years, which will change traffic patterns in Southeast Mesa as well as in Queen Creek and Pinal County. Mr. Grandy then gave a general scope of projects and planned development in the area. He noted that they have already received significant feedback to widen Ellsworth Rd and Signal Butte Rd. He also shared that Meridian Rd has individuals who did and did not support improvements along the roadway.

Board Member Ian Murray asked for more clarification on the priority of Signal Butte Rd.

Mr. Grandy responded that feedback was given to speed up the process and make improvements as soon as possible.

Board Member Jennifer Love asked how many people said they wanted Meridian Rd to be continuous and how many opposed.

Mr. Grandy said about 15-20 people on both sides of this issue came or left a written comment. He also shared that newer residents in the area seemed more interested in the improvements.

Mr. Grandy continued the presentation. He shared that the study looked at current zoning for vacant land, future development and the proposed development for the inner loop area. Mr. Grandy explained that given the current zoning for the area, they anticipate an approximate 47% increase in population, most of which would be north of the SR-24 and east of the Loop 202 in the Eastmark area. He also

stated that there is an anticipated increase to employment in the area. The projection is to see a tripling of employment in these areas between now and 2030.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak asked if airport employment is part of these numbers.

Mr. Grandy responded that it was.

Jennifer Love asked about the 2030 buildout.

Mr. Grandy shared that 2030 would be a partial build out with 2040 seen as build out. The additional build out would add another twenty-five thousand in population and a significant increase in employment, based on existing zoning.

Mr. Grandy continued the presentation and discussed the economic analysis that was completed. He stated that there will be almost 500,000 direct and indirect jobs. He also shared that they developed a baseline scenario for transportation, based on existing conditions, money allocated, and known ADOT and private development. Mr. Grandy explained that the capacity analysis looks positive but indicated that Ellsworth Rd and Sossaman Rd are roadways to highlight. He stated that if the land develops as projected, it will be over capacity in 2030.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson asked about funding.

Mr. Zubi shared about prioritizing projects and bond issues coming up.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak commented about the capacity.

Board Member Jennifer Love commented about a follow-up transit study.

Mr. Grandy explained the plans for a regional transit study.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak asked about fiscal analysis regarding long-term maintenance costs of the build out.

Board Member Ian Murray asked about public and private partnerships.

Mr. Grandy indicated that the study does not delve into this subject.

Board Member Ian Murray wanted to make sure there was enough funding.

Mr. Grandy shared that these discussions need to happen to ensure maintenance costs are understood.

Mr. Grandy continued the presentation and shared information about the four categories, first is improved mobility and safety, second is enhancing economic vitality, third is funding, and fourth is compatibility with approved plans and public input.

Ryan Wozniak asked how different segments will meet different needs.

Mr. Grandy shared that the study is intended to point you in the right direction and then within that timeframe do a more detailed analysis.

Mr. Zubi shared that it can be modified with a main goal of trying to prioritize transportation projects.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak asked when the appropriate time for modification is.

Mr. Zubi explained the intended process of how to proceed once funding has been allocated.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak spoke to future land use and buy-in.

Mr. Grandy stated he is presenting to the land and zoning board on May 22, 2019.

Mr. Grandy continued the presentation and shared the draft improvement plan, timeframe and number of lanes. He indicated that in the near term there will be widening of Ellsworth Rd and an extension of Sossaman Rd across Loop 202 to Ray Rd. He then discussed the mid-term plan. This plan focused on the need to widen and extend roads near the airport and SR-24 and fill in the gaps. Mr. Grandy then shared that the long-term plan calls for a grid network of 4 to 6 lane arterial roads.

Board Member Chris Scott asked about improvements on Sossaman Rd and Pecos Rd.

Mr. Grandy shared that there will be a traffic signal placed there, but not full scale widening.

Mr. Grandy discussed the next steps and meetings for presentation after which a final report will be available in Fall 2019.

Board Member Jennifer Love commented that the last slide with the projects is great and can be a living tool for the City to revisit over time.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson thanked Al Zubi and Michael Grandy for the presentation and discussion.

**Item 7. Discuss and take action on the staff recommendation to establish a speed limit of 35 mph on Meridian Road from the north City limits to the south City limits.**

Ryan Hudson, Senior Transportation Engineer, introduced himself, and stated that there is a slight modification to this item. It should read "recommendation to establish a speed limit of 35 mph on Meridian Road from the north City limits to Mesquite Street." Mr. Hudson gave an overview of the area. He explained that Meridian Rd has one lane in each direction, a currently posted speed limit of 35 mph, and the City's need to establish this into city code within the limits of what is Mesa jurisdiction.

It was moved by Board Member Ian Murray, seconded by Board Member Sam Gatton, to establish a speed limit of 35 mph on Meridian Road from the north City limits to Mesquite Street.

Board Member Vern Mathern asked if there is coordination between Mesa and Pinal County.

Sabine Ellis responds yes, it is solidified.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson called for a vote.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Wilson – Mathern – Scott – Murray – Wozniak – Love – Gatton - Marin

NAYS – None

**Item 8. Hear a presentation and discuss Mesa’s approach to crash analysis.**

Ryan Hudson, Senior Transportation Engineer, and David Rico, Traffic Studies Analyst, introduced themselves and shared they would be giving an overview of Mesa’s approach to crash data analysis.

Mr. Rico shared that there are annual reports on the City’s website available for anyone to view. He explained how the City obtains crash data, electronic Police reports and how staff uses those reports for analysis. Mr. Rico shared that after data is obtained, staff creates annual crash reports, detailing fatal, serious injury, bike, and pedestrian crashes. Mr. Rico also indicated that staff performs in-depth crash reviews using the most recent three years of data. He noted that staff uses this data as part of the design process, and he then continued to provide an overview of crash data statistics and trends, including fatal crashes by jurisdictions, crashes involving impairment, serious injury crashes, and pedestrian-related and bike-related crashes.

Mr. Hudson continued the presentation and shared one example, requests for left-turn arrows at an intersection, where staff uses crash data to analyze and determine countermeasures. He noted that staff considers crashes during Capital Improvement Projects and cited sidewalk widening and established off-street bike and pedestrian facilities. Mr. Hudson shared that staff also looks for the most cost-effective methods to improve safety, which could be prohibiting left hand turns, establishing a school zone or modifying traffic signal phasing and timing. He shared that education is another key part to increasing safety, and referenced the events, publications, public service announcements and other outreach efforts conducted by Transportation’s Bike and Ped Group. Mr. Hudson also shared that enforcement is another important aspect of safety and that Transportation staff works closely with the Mesa Police Department.

Board Member Jennifer Love asked about the crash trends and seat belt usage.

Mr. Hudson shared that staff considers national and local crash data as well as additional factors.

Mr. Rico shared that more information is also available in the reports.

Stephanie Derivan, Mesa PD Lieutenant, shared that seat belt usage has largely increased over the past ten years and the Buckle Up Arizona outreach effort is in progress.

Board Member Jennifer Love asked if motorcycles are included in the report.

Mr. Rico shared that motorcycles are included in the annual report.

Lieutenant Derivan shared that the two motorcycle fatalities that have occurred in 2019 and each involved left turning movements of another vehicle.

Board Member Sam Gatton asked about safety of lagging left turn arrows.

Mr. Hudson explained that leading and lagging left turn arrows relate more closely to capacity and efficiency and that Mesa's stance is general consistency citywide for all protected left turns.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak asked how funding is identified for specific areas, citing hot spots for crashes in West Mesa.

Sabine Ellis, City Traffic Engineer, shared that improvements are based on a combination of capacity and safety.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak asked how staff compares safety and capacity.

Ms. Ellis shared that staff evaluates the cost and benefit of improvements and if there are other alternatives.

Board Member Ryan Wozniak shared that he would like to see a long-term focus on safety improvements over capacity improvements.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson asked if staff uses predictive methods to inform decisions.

Mr. Hudson explained that staff utilizes both predictive crash analysis as well as traditional crash reports and rankings.

Ms. Ellis shared that staff is in the process of identifying eighty intersections using predictive methodologies.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson thanks Mr. Hudson and Mr. Rico for the presentation.

Vice Chairperson Ron Wilson thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM